

4

UPR20 – KAZAKHSTAN

STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of Kazakhstan.

While commending the ongoing legislative activity connected to the first cycle of UPR in 2010, we regret that many of the accepted recommendations have not yet been fully implemented. Therefore, we **recommend** Kazakhstan to speed up the effective implementation of the six UPR recommendations by the Czech Republic accepted by Kazakhstan in 2010.

We **recommend** taking effective measures to ensure freedom of expression and independence of the media, including the media expressing critical voices, and ensure protection of journalists, bloggers, human rights defenders and independent media and their work against assaults and intimidation. We also **recommend** Kazakhstan to decriminalize defamation and revise the provisions of Articles 400 and 403 of the newly adopted Criminal Code which could be abused to limit the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association.

Finally, we **recommend** Kazakhstan to:

- revise the Criminal Procedure Code in order to strengthen the role of the defence lawyers and extend the powers of the investigative judges in the criminal procedures;
- enact effective safeguards for the enjoyment of labour rights, including the right to strike and form labour unions, and conduct impartial investigation into all cases of alleged torture against those exercising these rights.

I thank you.

30 October 2014